



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

No. 45 Estate Mars Hill, Frederiksted

St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00840

PUBLIC NOTICE

I. NOTICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES INTENT TO ESTABLISH A FISH TRAP REDUCTION PROGRAM

II. DATE OF NOTICE(S): Wednesday, June 29th and Wednesday July 6th, 2016

III. BACKGROUND

The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) has established two Trap Reduction Steering Committees to develop proposed programs for reducing effort and increasing the economic efficiency of the USVI fish and lobster trap fisheries. The Virgin Islands Fish Trap Reduction Steering Committees are composed of fish and lobster trap fishermen, and is supported by state and federal representatives. The proposed Fish Trap Reduction Plan does not apply to lobster traps.

IV. HOW TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE PROPOSED FISH TRAP REDUCTION PLAN

The proposed Fish Trap Reduction plan is available on the department's website at <http://dpr.vi.gov/> or for public inspection by appointment at the DPNR Division of Fish and Wildlife offices on St. Thomas and St. Croix. To examine or request a copy of the proposed Fish Trap Reduction Plan, or to submit comments, contact:

**RUTH GOMEZ, DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
6291 ESTATE NAZARETH
ST. THOMAS, VI 00802
(340) 775-6762**

V. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

This notice announces the availability of the proposed Fish Trap Reduction Plan. DPNR is allowing a period of time for soliciting public comment on its intent to establish a Fish Trap Reduction Program. Comments must be submitted in writing to DPNR at the abovementioned address or emailed to ruth.gomez@dpr.vi.gov, on or before **Friday, July 29, 2016**

VI. DPNR'S RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Following the close of the designated comment period, a written response to comments and petitions will be developed as soon as possible after the close of the public comment period. All petitions and comments received during the public notice period will be considered. This response to comments and petitions will be available to the public in the same manner as today's notice.